

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 251533

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SUMMIT

EYES ONLY FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM HINTON

1. YOU WILL BE GETTING SEPARATELY A CABLE ON THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT SENT TO THE SECRETARY. ALSO DOBBINS IS HAND-CARRYING HIGHLY RELEVANT BACKGROUND MATERIAL. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE I COMMENTED ON EB PAPERS TO TOM ENDERS TODAY AS FOLLOWS:

"MY REACTION TO THE OVERVIEW PAPER IS THAT IT LACKS FOCUS. IT STRIKES ME THAT, WHILE YOU TALK ABOUT THE RIGHT THINGS, IT WOULD BE HARD FOR THE SECRETARY TO TRACK WHAT YOU SAY. YOU LOST ME IN THE FIRST COUPLE OF PARAGRAPHS, AND I HAD A HARD TIME GETTING BACK ON BOARD BECAUSE OF EXTRANEIOUS (TO ME) ANALYTICAL MATERIAL CLOGGING UP THE BASIC ARGUMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 251533

WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST IS SIMPLE:

(1) POLITICAL THEMES

(2) ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE

(3) MECHANISM TO GET THE RIGHT RESULT, I.E., A
DECENT DECLARATION

THE END RESULT OF THE SUMMIT WILL BE A DECLARATION OF SOME KIND; THEREFORE, IN MY VIEW, WE SHOULD DEVELOP THE POLITICAL THEMES, E.G., INTERDEPENDENCE, COMMON GOALS, DETERMINATION TO MOVE AHEAD, ETC., PLUS THE SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUSIONS WE WISH TO SEE IN THE DECLARATION. ON SUBSTANCE, YOU HAVE MADE THE KEY POINTS BUT I WOULD ORGANIZE THE POINTS MORE SHARPLY AND BEGIN TO INDICATE WHAT THE SUBSTANTIVE PARAGRAPHS IN THE FINAL DECLARATION MIGHT LOOK LIKE.

THE THIRD THING I WOULD DO (ALTHOUGH I'VE HEARD SOMEWHERE THAT SONNENFELDT IS OPPOSED TO IT) WOULD BE TO PROPOSE A MECHANISM TO GET THE DECLARATION IN SENSIBLE FORM SO THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DON'T JUST THRASH AROUND AND SOME SMART FRENCHMAN DOESN'T DO A DRAFT WHICH NO ONE ELSE HAS ENOUGH TIME TO CHANGE ADEQUATELY. MY MECHANISM WOULD BE A DRAFTING GROUP TO MEET A WEEK OR SO BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S. THE U.S. MEMBER OF THAT GROUP SHOULD BE GEORGE SHULTZ."

2. FURTHER, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE NEEDED PAPER SHOULD SUCCINCTLY IDENTIFY FOR THE SECRETARY WHAT WE WANT TO GET OUT OF THE SUMMIT, WHAT WE WANT TO AVOID, AND PROBABLE AREAS OF COMMON GROUND. MY HUNCH IS THAT, IN ADDITION TO PREPARING OUR PRINCIPALS FOR THE BROAD DISCUSSION THAT IS ENVISAGED WE SHOULD TAKE MOST SERIOUSLY A DECLARATION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO EB BACK-UP PAPERS, IT IS MY VIEW THAT THEY ARE OF VARYING UTILITY BUT ALSO GENERALLY LACKING IN CLEAR ORGANIZATION AND FOCUS. ON SUBSTANCE, I WOULD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 251533

NOT CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON TRADE TO BE BOLD." RATHER, IT LOOKS TO ME THAT WHILE CONCENTRATED ON IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, SUBSIDIES, COUNTERVAILING, ANTI-DUMPING, ETC., THESE ARE ISSUES THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE UNLIKELY TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTIVELY. CLEARLY HERE A PLEDGE TO AVOID PROTECTIONISM AND TO GET ON WITH THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING TARIFF CUTS, WITH SOME FILL-IN ON SUCH DETAILS ON SUBSIDIES MAKES MORE SENSE FOR USE BY

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

4. THE MONETARY PAPER IS PRETTY GOOD ON THE PROBLEM BUT MIGHTY WEAK ON THE SOLUTION. THE ENERGY PAPER LOOKS ABOUT RIGHT TO ME BUT MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE I KNOW LESS ABOUT THAT SUBJECT. THE NORTH-SOUTH PAPER IS INADEQUATE AND CLEARLY THE FINAL SENTENCE IN THE RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT, BUT IN ADDITION, I WOULD THINK WE SHOULD TRY FOR GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR STABILIZATION OF EXPORT INCOMES, AND PROBABLY SOME OTHER BASIC POINTS ON COMMODITY POLICY AND TRADE POLICY AIMED AT HELPING LDC'S.

5. AS FOR THE DECEMBER CONFERENCE, I'LL SIMPLY CONFESS THAT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT ROGER ASSURES ME THAT THE REQUIRED CABLE FOR THE SECRETARY IS GOING OUT, COPY TO YOU, AND THAT IT WILL NOT BE TOO BAD. INGERSOLL

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